

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal F(ab')₂ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said F(ab')₂ antibody fragments ~~are capable of binding~~ bind to a purified molecule or a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion of the species *Centruroides limpidus*.

31-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal F(ab')₂ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes ~~is capable of binding and neutralizing~~ a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion of the species *Centruroides limpidus*, and wherein the F(ab')₂ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) contacting a source of antibody with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing F(ab')₂ fragments and being substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(b) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate.

37-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 36, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. (Previously presented) The $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragment composition of claim 30, further wherein said composition is substantially free of viruses.

46-66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free of albumin, viral particles, whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes ~~is capable of binding and neutralizing~~ a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion, and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) generating a source of antibodies from an animal that has been immunized with a complex mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion of the species *Centruroides limpidus*;

(b) contacting said source of antibodies with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments wherein said digest is substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(c) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate to thereby obtain a suspension containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments substantially free of whole antibodies;

(d) centrifuging said suspension to produce a composition comprising a paste of $F(ab')_2$ fragments and a supernatant; and

(e) removing said supernatant from the composition produced in step (d).

68-75. (Cancelled).

76. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 67, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

77. (Currently amended) A composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes ~~is capable of binding and neutralizing~~ a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion of the species *Centruroides limpidus*.

78. (Currently amended) A composition comprising polyclonal F(ab')₂ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes ~~is capable of binding and neutralizing~~ a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion of the species *Centruroides limpidus*,

and wherein the F(ab')₂ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

- (a) contacting a source of antibody with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing F(ab')₂ fragments and being substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;
- (b) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
 - i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
 - ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate.

79. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*.

80. (New) The composition of claim 36, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus*.

81. (New) The composition of claim 36, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*.

82. (New) The composition of claim 30, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus*.

83. (New) The composition of claim 77, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*.

84. (New) The composition of claim 77, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus*.

85. (New) The composition of claim 78, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus*.

86 (New) The composition of claim 78, wherein said scorpion is *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*.

87. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments bind to a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*.

88. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments neutralizes a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*.

89. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*,

and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) contacting a source of antibody with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments and being substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(b) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate.

90. (New) A composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments bind to a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*.

91. (New) A composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments neutralizes a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*.

92. (New) A composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxi*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*,

and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) contacting a source of antibody with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments and being substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(b) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate.

93. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free of albumin, viral particles, whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition binds and neutralizes a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion, and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) generating a source of antibodies from an animal that has been immunized with a complex mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of *Centruroides noxius*, *Centruroides limpidus limpidus*, *Centruroides limpidus tecomanus* and *Centruroides suffusus suffusus*;

(b) contacting said source of antibodies with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments wherein said digest is substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(c) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation,
i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and
ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate to thereby obtain a suspension containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments substantially free of whole antibodies;

(d) centrifuging said suspension to produce a composition comprising a paste of $F(ab')_2$ fragments and a supernatant; and

(e) removing said supernatant from the composition produced in step (d).